

purely lunar one. Some record was kept of the years, a certain symbol of some distinctive event standing for each year on the record robe, the same system used by the Dakotas. The year was divided as follows:

January	Moon of seven cold days.
February	" " the rut of wolves.
March	" " sore eyes.
April	" " game; or of the river break-up.
May	" " sowing; or of flowers.
June	" " ripe june-berries.
July	" " ripe choke-cherries.
August	" " ripe wild plums.
September	" " ripe corn.
October	" " the fall of leaves.
November	" " the freezing rivers.
December	" " the little cold.

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The Mandans were a very liberal and hospitable people, more so than any of their neighbors according to Henry. Food was practically common property in the village. No man could become a chief without much giving of presents, and giving was considered a great honor, the gifts which a man had made being painted on his robe along with his deeds in war. If one expressed a desire for anything it was immediately given to him but a present of equal value was expected in return. In connection with this might be mentioned the custom of taking back a sale; by a return of the purchase price a man might regain anything which he had sold, whenever he wished to.

The hospitality of the Mandans is mentioned by every visitor. Verendrye speaks particularly of his kind reception and says, "Their custom being to feed liberally all who came among them, selling only what was to be taken away."¹ Even their worst enemy when once in their village had nothing to fear and was treated with all kindness. Henry remarked that the Mandans were thieves but never touched any property of a stranger who was a guest in a lodge. They were bound to protect any stranger, even an enemy who might seek refuge in the village.

¹ Op. cit., p. 15.

nations on the Missouri are all in the habit of painting such robes; but the Pawnees, Mandans, 532
 Manitaris, and Crows, are the most skilful in this art.* Another mode of painting their robes 532
 is, to represent the number of valuable presents they have made. By these presents, which are 431
 often of great value, they acquire reputation and respect among their countrymen. On such 554
 robes we observed long red figures, with a black circle at the termination, placed close to each 210
 other in transverse rows; they represent whips, indicating the number of horses given, because 435
 the whip belonging to the horse is always bestowed with the animal. Red or dark blue transverse
 figures indicate cloth or blankets given; parallel transverse stripes represent fire-arms, the out-
 lines of which are pretty correctly drawn. The robe is frequently cut, at the bottom, into narrow
 strips, like fringe, and ornamented on the sides with tufts of human hair, and horse-hair dyed
 yellow and green, and with glass beads. Formerly the Indians painted these robes more care- 432
 fully than they now do, and it was possible to obtain one for five musket balls and some powder;
 now they are far inferior, and eight or ten dollars is not unfrequently paid for them. A robe
 handsomely painted is equal in value to two not painted.

Their leggins are fastened with straps to their leathern girdles, and are embroidered at the 291
 outer seam with stripes, one or two inches in breadth, of porcupine quills, of beautiful various
 colours, and often with blue and white beads, and long leathern fringes, which form at the ankle
 a thick bunch, which trails upon the ground. The leather of which their leggins are made is,
 for the most part, stained of a reddish-brown, or pale red, usually with clay, sometimes white, and
 often marked below the knee with black transverse stripes. They, as well as all the tribes of North
 America, use what the English call a breech-cloth (Nokka), which is a narrow strip of woollen cloth,
 striped black and white, which passes between the thighs under the girdle, before and behind, where
 it hangs down. Their shoes, which are made of buck skin, or buffalo leather, are generally plain,
 or very slightly ornamented; but, in full dress, they are embroidered with coloured rosettes, or strips
 of dyed porcupine quills or beads. Those men who have performed exploits wear, round the ankles, [554]
 wolf's tail, or pieces of otter skin, which are lined with red cloth, and trail on the ground. In the
 summer, when the men are at home, and go about in state, they carry the fan of eagle's feathers
 in their hands, which we have before described. What the Anglo-Americans call "the crow,"
 which is worn by the warriors of the nations of the Mississippi, and the Lower Missouri, is
 wholly unknown among the tribes of the Upper Missouri, the Sioux, Assiniboins, Crows, Man-
 dans, Arikaras, Manitaris, and Blackfeet.

The boys are generally naked, and in winter merely have a robe thrown over them; the 291
 girls are dressed in leather in summer as well as winter. The women wear a long leather

* There is a print of such a robe in Major Long's Expedition to the Rocky Mountains, and another in Plate XXI.,
 Fig. 1., of my *Atlas*. The original was painted by Mato-Topi himself, and the figures on it represent some of his prin-
 cipal exploits, in which he killed, with his own hand, five chiefs of different nations.